

### EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Kenneth Tolar on 12/14/2007.

The application has been amended as follows:

The Abstract:

The last four words of the Abstract "disposed thereon are described" have been replaced with the phrase --connected to a handle by a flexible pin.-- for better describing the invention.

In claim 1:

- Lines 4 and 5 have been replaced with the following paragraph --an adjustable substantially circular thumb ringlet having an open portion and a hole opposite to the open portion and extending from the outside surface of the thumb ringlet inward to a cavity portion;--.

-Lines 6-8 have been replaced with the following paragraph -- a flexible pin adapted to be inserted through the cavity portion and the hole in said thumb ringlet and into the tubular portion of said first shaft for rotatably connecting said thumb ringlet to

said first shaft, and being constructed and shaped to fit into the cavity portion such that it is flush with the inner surface of the thumb ringlet;--.

In claim 10:

- Lines 4 and 5 have been replaced with the following paragraph -- an adjustable, substantially circular thumb ringlet having an open portion and a connecting portion opposite the open portion, wherein the connecting portion includes a passage extending from the inner surface to the outside surface of the thumb ringlet, and is enlarged adjacent the inside surface to defined a cavity;--.

- Line 6 has been replaced with the following paragraph -- means for rotatably connecting said thumb ringlet to said first shaft, wherein the means for rotatably connecting said thumb ringlet to said first shaft is adapted to be inserted into the connecting portion, and is constructed and shaped to fit into the cavity such that it is flush with the inner surface of the thumb ringlet;--.

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 1 and 10 are allowable for setting forth a scissors having an adjustable thumb ringlet connected with a handle of the scissors by a flexible pin, wherein the thumb ringlet comprises a hole extending from the outside surface of the thumb ringlet inward to a cavity portion and the flexible pin is inserted through the cavity and the hole for connecting the thumb ringlet with the handle such that the flexible pin is flush with the inner surface of the thumb ringlet.

For example, Nolen (590,330) teaches a pair of scissors having an adjustable thumb ringlet connected with a handle by a non-flexible pin. The thumb ringlet has circular hole for receiving the pin. Nolen does not teach a flexible pin and the hole having a passage in connection with a cavity portion, wherein the flexible pin is inserted through the cavity and the passage for connecting the thumb ringlet with the handle and flush with the inner surface of the thumb ringlet.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to PHONG H. NGUYEN whose telephone number is (571)272-4510. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Boyer Ashley can be reached on 571-272-4502. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business

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Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/P. H. N./  
Examiner, Art Unit 3724  
December 17, 2007

/Boyer D. Ashley/  
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3724